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Very few answers given at recent General Council

By Mike Wilber
Menominee Nation News

Menominee people had many questions but got very few answers during a recent general council meeting.

The council was called for by a petition of tribal members and was held at the Menominee Casino conference hall on October 9. The petitioners allege several abuses of power

Please see COUNCIL page 3

Sixteen vie for three open legislative seats

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

All three incumbents whose terms will expire in February 2000 have filed nomination papers with the election commission seeking a second term in office.

Once it was learned that Apesanahkwat, Wendell 'Sim' Askenette, and Eugene 'Gene' Caldwell were seeking re-election, unsubstantiated rumors attacking the incumbents began to circulate.

Please see CANDIDATES page 2

Rumor about tribe's investments unfounded, say officials

By Yvonne M. Kaquatosh
Menominee Nation News

Around this time every year, rumors begin to circulate in the community which are directed at members of the Menominee Tribal Legislature

(who plan to run for re-election) as well as other candidates running for office.

Unfortunately, this type of character assassination occurs only around election time and this election year is no exception.

An unsigned letter has been circulated in the community and is directed at three incumbents who plan to run for re-election - current Chairman, Apesanahkwat, Vice-Chair Wendell 'Sim' Askenette, and

Please see RUMOR page 2

Elder's Pow wow



M. Wilber/MNN

Menominee elders Tillie Zhuckkahosee and Sarah Skubitz lead the way as a younger generation of dancers follow during the Elder's Pow wow held in Neopit recently.
Additional photos on page 18

Kiddie Crime Stopper's March held



Y. Kaquatosh/MNN

Headstart children and staff proudly display a home-made banner as they get ready for the 1/2 mile march against crime and violence on Tuesday, October 12. The second annual 'Kiddie Krime Stoppers' march concluded at the Neopit Pavilion. Chili and frybread were served after the march and was provided by the staff at Maehnowesekiyah.

Additional photos, story on pg. 19

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CANDIDATES:

late in the community by an unknown individual. (see related story)

Other candidates vying for three seats on the governing body of the Menominee Nation include: Frank H. Teller, Keith L. Tourtillott, Myrna Zhuckkahosee-Jackson, Karen Dickie-Gardner, Duane 'Mokie' Gristeau, Lorena L. Thoms, Frieda M. Bergeon, Louis J. Dixon, Orman 'Chief' Waukau, Bruce A. Wilber, Sr., Myrna 'Tudy' Warrington, Sylvia Wilber, and Anthony L. Awonohopay, Sr.

In the Chief of Police race, current incumbent William 'Kuzco' Beuprey is running for reelection but not without a challenge from four candidates seeking to get the highest tribal law enforcement post. They include: Judith L. Duquain, Tom Tousey, Brian A. Tourtillott, and Keith L. Tourtillott.

The Primary election will be held on Wednesday, November 10 at the Neopit Firestation, and Thursday November 11 at the Tribal Office Headquarters in accordance with Ordinance 79-20. Polling places will open at 10:00 am. and close at 8:00 p.m.

The Final election is set for Wednesday, January 12, 2000 at the Neopit Firestation, and Thursday, January 13 at the Tribal Office Headquarters.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is Friday, November 5th at 4:00 p.m. If you wish to vote absentee, you may do so by written request by the established deadline.

Profiles of candidates will be published in the November 4th issue of Menominee Nation News.

COUNCIL:

by MTE and mismanagement of tribal funds.

Larry Waukau, MTE president, said the questions pertained to matters currently in litigation and could not be discussed at an open forum.

Apesanahkwat, tribal chairman who also served as chairman for the meeting, concurred. He said information disclosed during the meeting could hurt the tribal members involved in the litigation.

Agenda items of concern at the General Council included:

- * Abuse of power by MTE president and MTE board.

- * Recent abuse of 2 tribal elders and their families by MTE, causing trauma.
- * Mistreatment of tribal members by MTE board and its president.
- * Misuse of tribal funds must be investigated.
- * A full accounting of tribal funds used to fight the Menominee people.
- * Stop the BIA involvement and meddling into tribal matters and management.
- * Stop the interference by MTE and the BIA against the tribal legislature.
- * Immediately stop the conflict of interest existing at MTE.
- * Place the Menominee Tribal Enterprises under the Menominee constitution.

One motion, made by Frieda Bergeon, was passed at the meeting.

The motion was to direct the Board of Directors of Menominee Tribal Enterprises to review, examine, and/or modify the following eight directives:

1. All potential Menominee contractors should be allowed to bid;
2. Contract process should be reviewed;
3. Appeal process should be reviewed;
4. Performance bond issue should be reviewed for fairness;
5. Modify forestry practices, especially clear cutting;
6. Reexamine the use of the Ponce machine;
7. Provide an analysis of our forest resources and develop a mechanism and rate to be used to provide monetary compensation benefits to tribal members;
8. What is the value of the pulp wood and the saw logs?

RUMORS:

Legislator Gene Caldwell.

The letter alleges that the incumbents have wasted funds from the Tribes Investment Portfolio.

Menominee Tribal Administrator, Betty Jo Wozniak pointed out that

"There is considerably more than the \$500,000 in investments than is alleged in the letter that is floating around in the community".

In fact, she added, "Three legislators alone cannot and do not obligate tribal funds. It takes a majority vote of the Legislature to pass the budget ordinance."

It is believed that the author of the letter "misinterpreted information provided to the Legislature at budget time".

It was also pointed out that when the FY99 budget was passed on September 24, 1998, the vote was 7 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 1 absent.

According to Wozniak, these funds, as do all of the funds spent under the budget ordinance, pay for programs and services to and for the tribal members. It was also pointed out that the expenditure for the per capita payment alone was approximately \$850,000.

Tribal members may request this information if they are interested in figures that are more exact.

There was no documentation provided to back up the allegations.